DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF EDUCATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Geographic News Bulletin

This bulletin is issued weekly by the Department of the Interior. The information in it is obtained from the NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, Washington, D. C.

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"IN THE SHADE OF THE SHELTERING PALMS," EVERY SAMOAN VILLAGE HAS AN IDEAL SETTING

But the palm is not a mere thing of beauty; it is a joy to the native taxpayer, who meets his obligation to the islands' government by the payment of copra-dried coconut meat. Here one estimates his debts in pounds and tons rather than in dollars, for copra is a medium of exchange. The natives pay into the treasury for their share of the government expenses between 500,000 and 550,000 pounds of copra annually.

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Milan: Center of Italy's Social Earthquake Zone.

MILAN, chief city of the Lombardy-Piedmont region of Italy, where workers seized factories several months ago and where much unrest has been manifest since, has frankly considered itself for long years the virtual capital—the "capitale morale"—of the country.

In the recent industrial troubles, factories are reported to have been seized by workmen in practically all parts of Italy; but it was in Lombardy and Piedmont, the territorial divisions lying farthest north and farthest northwest in the peninsula—the seats of the important Italian metal industries—that the seizures were most numerous. In those regions, in turn, the movement was most pronounced in and about Turin, the principal city of the Piedmont and the Detroit of Italy, and in Milan, metropolis of the north and Italy's Fall River, Philadelphia and Schenectady rolled into one.

Since the earliest times some sort of unrest has surged in the breasts of the Milanese. At times it has been merely the constructive restlessness that sought to place Milan further in the forefront of Italian cities. At other times it has been a rankling discontent, born of industrial ills or social propaganda, that has found its outlet in strikes, barricaded streets and bloodshed.

Lombardy and the Piedmont comprise the plains of the upper reaches of the great Po valley, the Alpine foothills, and the southern and eastern slopes of a large part of the Alps themselves. Milan, on a fertile plain near the southern ends of some of the most important of the Alpine passes, was a town of considerable importance even in the dim historic days of 222 B. C., when it was captured by the Romans. It was then, as it is today, second city in point of population in Italy.

A City of Nine Lives, Plus

Milan early earned a position of leadership among surrounding cities, a leadership, however, which did not go unchallenged. The city has been destroyed many times, once by a league of neighboring towns, and at other times by alien conquerors. After each destruction it has sprung up on a seemingly firmer foundation to achieve greater popularity and a more far-reaching influence.

Apart from any reputation Milan may have gained as an index to industrial unrest, it is a leader among Italian cities in other respects. Indeed, the Milanese insist that their city, their "capitale morale," is the very heart and head of Italy's modern life and activity—"first in industry, first in municipal progress, first in political importance."

Even at the beginning of the eleventh century Milan was of some importance industrially, its handicraft workers turning out textiles, arms and jewelry. The innumerable wars to which Italian cities and provinces were

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YOUNG ITALY

There are nearly one-tenth as many Italians in America today as in Italy itself. The vast sums of gold that hard work and hard living enable the Italian to save up and send home, where a quarter looks bigger than a dollar here, is the best immigration stimulation there is. That accounts for the fact that we were increasing our Italian population at an average of 16 per cent a year during the twenty-five years before the European war began.

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The Samoan Islands: One of Germany's Lost Territories.

THE former German Samoan Islands constitute one of the important groups of Pacific islands that have fallen to the lot of Great Britain, through New Zealand, as a result of the World War.

The Samoan group, called by former geographers "The Navigators' Islands," from the skill in navigation shown by its inhabitants, consists of four principal bits of land lying in the South Pacific, nearly midway between New Zealand and Hawaii.

The number of islands in the group may, by counting the smaller, be increased to 11, or even 14, but only Savii, Upolu, Tutuila (the last mentioned owned by the United States), and the three usually included under the general term Manua, are important.

Like Huge Green Sombreros

All are verdure-clad and inhabited, and in appearance and shape resemble immense green hats, the interior representing the crown being mountainous, while the brim or shore is covered with coconut palms, breadfruit, banana, and other tropical trees, which furnish the native food.

At some prehistoric period the peaks of a submerged mountain chain running northeast and southwest have been lifted from the depths of the ocean by the upheaval of volcanoes now long extinct. Accumulations of soil brought by heavy rains from the mountains meet the ever-growing reef, which prevents easy approach to the land, except in those places where fresh-water streams, forcing their way through, form openings in the coral barrier.

Between reef and shore a lagoon, varying in width from 200 yards to two or three miles, provides a secure highway for coast and inter-island traffic. The entire length of the group, if Rose Island be included, is little less than 300 miles, and the gross area of the islands is larger than the state of Rhode Island by 50 square miles.

The native inhabitants of the islands are of Polynesian stock and are clearly related to the natives of both Hawaii and New Zealand. For practical purposes these natives may be divided into four classes. At the head stand the chiefs, who are hereditary in the sense that they must belong to certain families, but elective in that they exercise authority by virtue of titles conferred on them.

"Talking Men" Leaders

The Tulafale, talking-man, is their executive officer, who phrases their thoughts in eloquent language, and is frequently the central figure in the district and the source of authority. Below him and above the lowest class, composed of what are known as the "common people," are the native teachers

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subjected slowed up its industrial development even after the introduction of the factory system, but since the unification of Italy in 1870, and the relative political calm that has followed, the growth of the city's industries has been marvelous. Textiles, locomotives and electrical apparatus are the leading products, and a long list of metal manufactures could be added.

Milan Industries Invade Suburbs

The industrial plants of modern Milan have fairly burst the confines of the old city and many are to be found in numerous populous suburbs that have sprung up, especially since 1895. The population now numbers close to three-quarters of a million. It is exceeded only slightly, if at all, by that of Naples, and is considerably in excess of that of Rome.

All industries in this section of Italy are not dependent on the importation of coal. Piedmontese and Lombardian industry has been turning more and more during recent years to the use of electric power generated from the great falls and rapids of the many streams that, tumbling down from the heights of the Alps almost at the walls of the cities, may be made to take the place of the expensive fuel for which Italy is dependent on foreign countries.

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Tientsin, the Panorama City.

TIENTSIN, in the northeastern edge of the terrible Chinese famine area, in which millions of people are starving to death, is like a necklace of towns strung together. To walk about Tientsin is to travel. An afternoon's stroll from the native to the British, French, Italian, Russian, and other foreign quarters, gives the sensation of a magic tour through Peking, London, Paris, Rome and Petrograd. And the windmills among the salt mounds just outside the city add a touch of Holland.

This panorama city has had a tempestuous history. There a group of American and other foreign residents—Herbert C. Hoover among them—defended themselves for a month against the fanatic Boxers in 1900.

Known as "Town Without Walls"

Since then the native city has been known as Cheng-li, or "Town Without Walls," because the ancient barriers were demolished during the siege. Of the 500 doughty foreigners more than fifty were killed and many others wounded before military aid came.

Tientsin was the scene of another famous siege, that of the Taiping rebels in 1853. Followers of Hung Sin Tsuan, who had professed Christianity and set himself up in Nanking as the "Heavenly King," marched toward Peking. But the Waterloo of the "long-haired rebels," so called because they could not plait their queues and thus signify loyalty to the Manchus, came at Tientsin.

The success of the campaign against the revolutionists was due principally to the gallant "Chinese Gordon," Gen. Charles George Gordon, and his "Ever-Victorious Army." But the fact would not be suspected from reading the imperial edict, issued by the former concubine who had elevated herself to Empress Dowager. The edict set forth that "This glorious victory is entirely due to the bountiful protection of Heaven, to the ever-present help of our ancestors, and to the foresight of the Empresses Regent." A tribute is paid to the Chinese generals "who have been combed by the wind and bathed in the rain," and one of them was awarded the decoration of the double-eyed peacock's feather.

Seat of Important Salt Industry

Commanding the native force at Tientsin was Seng-ko-lin-sin, a Mongol general, who later distinguished himself less creditably. In 1860 he sought to defend Tientsin against a foreign expedition by erecting an immense mud rampart outside the city. Tientsin was captured and held for two years by the British and French, and the crude defense is known in the foreign quarters as "Seng-ko-lin-sin's folly."

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and chatechists, who wear more clothes and do less fighting than the rest of the population.

There is nothing in the dress or bearing of a high chief which enables a foreigner to distinguish him, but he is isolated from the rest of the people by a system of rigid etiquette. No one may hold up an umbrella or do certain kinds of work in his presence, and a special vocabulary is set apart in which to address him. The common names for food, an axe, a pig, etc., are taboo in his presence. His face, his anger, and other attributes are described in an entirely different set of words from those used for ordinary men.

Hedged about as he is, the chief, in his intercourse with persons not of his rank, has come to depend largely on his "talking man" who, like his chief, is elected from certain families in which the office is hereditary. As a rule, no one is elected who has not a gift for oratory, which is a common talent in Samoa.

The powers and duties of the "talking man" are considerable. They are men of much dignity of carriage, and as they stand leaning upon a staff of office with a "fue," or fly-flap cast over one shoulder, with which occasionally to emphasize their remarks, they compare favorably in appearance with the orators of a nation more civilized than themselves.

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The French Tricolor.

THE French tricolor has been carried well beyond the Rhine since the recent refusal of the Germans to meet allied reparation demands. It has been the dream of Frenchmen since the days of Sedan to see their flag flying in this territory.

The story of this flag is contained in the following communication to the National Geographic Society:

"The familiar and inspiring tricolor of France dates from the year that gave the United States its Constitution—1789. The best authorities are doubtful as to the true story of its origin, but there are three principal theories as to the derivation of its combination of colors.

"The first of these, and the most authentic, is that after the taking of the Bastille, when Lafayette had been appointed by acclamation commander-in-chief of the National Guard, he devised for the Guard a new cockade made of the white of the royal family and of the colors of Paris time out of mind, which were, and continued to be, red and blue. From this cockade, most historians believe, came the French national flag.

Three Flags Combined

"Another version links the tricolor with the three historic flags of France—the blue of the Chape de Martin, the red of the oriflamme, and the white of the Bourbons. It will be recalled that the Chape de Martin was supposed to be the original cloak which St. Martin divided with a beggar at Amiens, which act was followed by a vision of Christ making known to the angels this deed of charity. The chape was in the keeping of the monks of Marmoutier, and Clovis carried it when he conquered Alaric, while Charlemagne bore it at Narbonne. When the kings of France transferred the seat of government to Paris, the local saint, St. Denis, was held in high honor, and gradually the plain scarlet banner, known as the oriflamme, and kept in the abbey church, supplanted the blue of St. Martin as the national color. The oriflamme appeared for the last time at the battle of Agincourt, in 1415. The Huguenot party in France adopted the white flag, and when Henry III, himself a Protestant, came to the throne he made it the royal ensign. His successor, Henry IV, the first king of the Bourbons, adopted it as the national flag.

"The third account of the tricolor's origin is that it is copied from the shield of the Orleans family, as it appeared after Philippe Egalite knocked off the fleur-de-lis. During the first and second empires, the tricolor became the imperial standard, but in the center of the white stripe was placed the eagle, while all three stripes were richly powdered with the golden bees of the Napoleon family.

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The region about Tientsin was known as Chi-chou under the Hsia dynasty, whose rulers, 4,000 years ago, already had court astronomers who could predict eclipses. Later it was called Ya-chou, in the Chou dynasty, marked by the western wars waged by Mu-Wang against the "Dog Barbarians," thought to have been ancestors of the Huns. Tientsin dates back at least to the fourteenth century.

The salt industry in the neighborhood of Tientsin is prodigious. Windmills are used to pump salt water into the fields along the Hailo river, where the widely known Chang-lu salt is made. Before the war nearly 20,000 tons were produced annually. But Tientsin is important commercially in many respects. It is a rice market, and Siberia's tea formerly was shipped through there. Exports were as varied as the needs of the dozen or so nations which had separate settlements along five miles of the river front, and its imports were as diverse as the commodities those nations had to exchange.

The Peiho and Hunho rivers converge at Tientsin. From the latter to the Yangtsze-Kiang extends the Grand Canal, that remarkable specimen of ancient engineering, mentioned by Confucius, which originally was more than 1,000 miles long.

Tientsin has more people than Boston. It is the principal city in Chih-li, and is 86 miles southeast of Peking by rail.

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Pola: Former Austrian Naval Base Now Italian Stronghold.

POLA, formerly important to Austria as its naval base, now is equally important to Italy, for a different reason. A glance at a map of the Adriatic will show that the possession of Pola, and the recent acquisition of the Island of Cherso, by the terms of the Rapallo agreement, give Italy control of the water route to Fiume.

Situated near the extremity of the Istrian peninsula, 85 miles by rail southwest of Trieste, Pola's sole important activity before the war was connected with the repairing, provisioning and harboring of the Austrian naval forces. The town is virtually without industrial establishments or manufactures.

In 1900 the population of Pola was about what it had been eighteen centuries before under the rule of Roman emperors. During the succeeding ten years, however, it grew from 45,000 to 70,000.

Half-and-Half Harbor

The practically land-locked harbor is divided, the upper or northern half being the commercial roadstead, and the lower half (below the chain bridge which connects Scoglio Olivi, or Olive Island, with the mainland) being the Porto Militare, with the extensive marine arsenal on the southeastern shore.

The city itself clusters around a castle-crowned hill which was once the site of the Roman capitol. The castle is a memento of the days of Venetian prowess.

Before the war Pola was annually visited by many American and English tourists, not on account of its strongly fortified harbor, but because of the interesting and well-preserved monuments which have survived since the days of Roman occupation.

Best Preserved Roman Amphitheater

The most impressive ruin in Pola is the vast amphitheater, erected at the beginning of the Christian era in honor of the emperors Septimius Severus and Carcalla. This is believed to be the only Roman amphitheater whose outer walls have withstood the ravages of time and of man. The interior, however, is badly dismantled and the foundation walls at one end, centuries ago, were extensively quarried by the Venetians who desired the white Istrian limestone for the erection of their own palacs. More than 20,000 spectators used to watch the naval and gladiatorial combats in this arena. On the upper tier are still to be seen the stone sockets which supported the awnings used in sunny weather.

The temple of Augustus, erected in 19 B. C., is another monument of antiquity which is remarkably well preserved.

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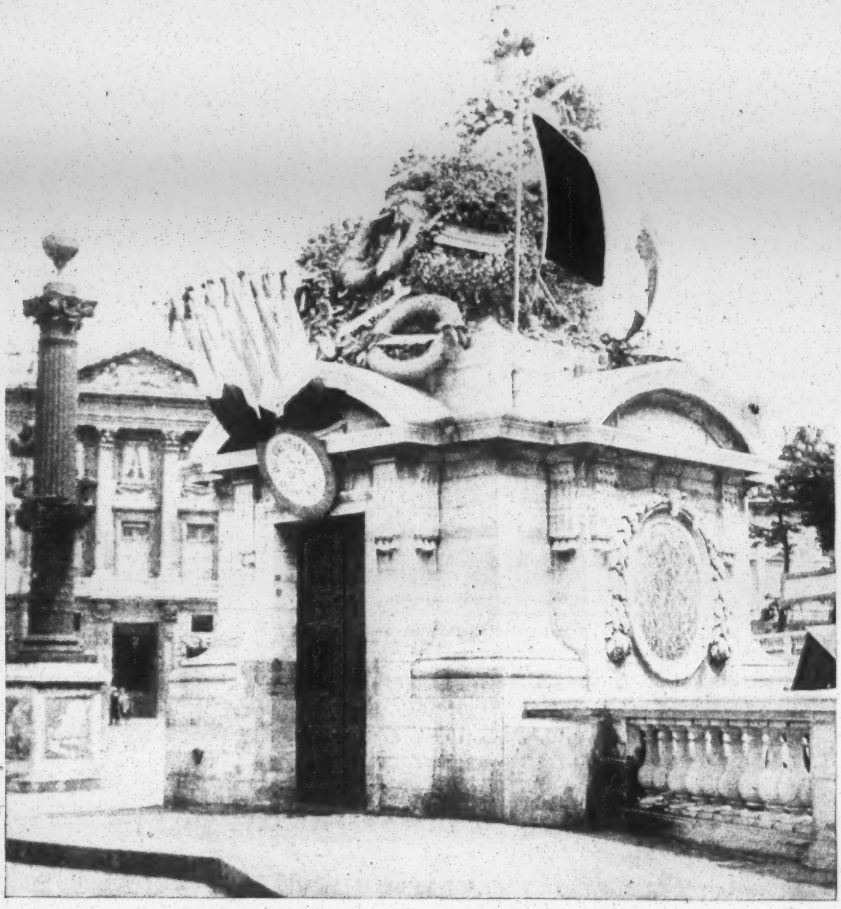
"The flag of France, in 1914, waved over territory nearly one and a half times as large as that covered by the United States. French colonies have a total of approximately 4,500,000 square miles. Among the flags of the earth, before the war, only the Union Jack and the banner of Russia floated over more territory.

"The flag of the President of France consists of the French tricolor, with the initials of the President in gold on the white stripe."

Bulletin No. 4, April 11, 1921.



THE TRICOLOR OVER THE STRASSBURG MONUMENT, PARIS

Today, the Strassburg monument is more than a memorial to Alsace, more than an expression of the proud spirit of France. No longer draped in mourning, but bright with the tricolor, it is a declaration that might does not make right.

About the middle of the 12th century Pola became a Venetian city. In the destructive wars which resulted from the rivalry between Venice and Genoa to control the commerce of the world two centuries later this port across the Adriatic from its parent republic suffered often and grievously. It was completely destroyed in 1379, and for nearly four and a half centuries it lay dormant. It passed to Austria at the end of the Napoleonic wars, however, and its modern growth dates from 1848, when it was selected as an Austrian naval base.

Pola lies almost due east of Venice, a distance of 75 miles across the Adriatic.

Bulletin No. 5, April 11, 1921.

THE CATHEDRAL AND PIAZZA DUOMO: MILAN

With its forest of pinnacles, its 2,300 exterior statues in marble, its magnificent stained-glass windows, the Cathedral of Milan, in which 40,000 people may gather, stands today as one of the most beautiful of man's temples. Italian, Gallic, and Teuton architects labored to make it a mosaic of Europe's architectural ideals.